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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/753,923	01/05/2004	Kevin B. Pinter	PINK102	9638
7590 11/30/2006				
JOSEPH W. HOLLAND HOLLAND & THIEL, P.C. PO BOX 1840 BOISE, ID 83701-1840			EXAMINER NEWTON, JARED W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3692	

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/753,923

Applicant(s)

PINTAR, KEVIN B.

Examiner

Jared W. Newton

Art Unit

3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-8,11 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-8,11 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This final rejection is in reply to the remarks filed September 5, 2006, by which claims 1, 4, 8, and 11 were amended. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15-20 stand as cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, and 14 are pending.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The recitation "the first side stock support member, the second side stock support member and a lock pivotable with the first mounting bracket and the stock support member" is indefinite, because one of ordinary skill in the art would not know which stock support member is referred to at the end of the recitation. Clarification and correction is respectfully requested.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 321,920 to Wunderlick in view of US Patent No. 4,113,107 to Jaeger.

Wunderlick discloses a gun rack comprising a stock support assembly *G* having pivoted curved seat *g* adapted to receive the butt portion of a gun; further comprising a barrel support assembly *T* comprising a claw *H* adapted to grasp the outer perimeter of the gun nozzle (see FIG. 1) Wunderlick further discloses vertical side stock support members *g'* connected to and extending from said butt support member (see FIG. 3). Wunderlick further discloses a lower mounting bracket *C*, wherein the stock support member *G* is pivotally mounted to said lower bracket *C* and pivotable about an axis of rotation; and an upper mounting bracket *B*, wherein the barrel claw *H* is pivotally mounted to said upper bracket *B* and pivotable about the axis of rotation (see FIG. 1). Wunderlick further discloses a barrel gripping claw assembly analogous to a clip, wherein a clip is defined as a device for gripping or clasping. Wunderlick recites, "The arm *T* of bracket *B* has a pivoted or hinged piece or claw, *H*, for grasping the nozzle of the gun..." (see Line 48). Wunderlick further discloses first and second vertical stock support members *g'* extending from the butt support member *g*, said stock support members aligned in a parallel orientation to each other (see FIGs. 1 and 3). Wunderlick recites, "The bracket *C* is provided with the arm *G*, having pivoted curved seat *g*, with side and end projections *g'*, in which the stock of the gun is placed" (see Line 45). Wunderlick further discloses the upper and lower mounting brackets with respective support members attached pivotally thereto, as advanced above.

Wunderlick discloses a rack including all of the limitations of claim 11, further comprising a clip as set forth in the claim 6 rejection above (see paragraph 9).

Wunderlick does not disclose the abovementioned first and second side stock support members including respective first and second apertures adapted to permit the insertion of a pin portion of a lock therethrough.

Jaeger discloses a gun rack comprising: a butt support member 12; and first and second side stock support members comprising columns 22,24 and braces 26,28, wherein said stock support members have aligned apertures 62 for receiving a the pin portion 64 of a locking member 80 (see FIGS. 4 and 6).

The Wunderlick and Jaeger references are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor—firearm storage assemblies. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the upward extending stock support members and the locking pin and member as disclosed by Jaeger within the rack as disclosed by Wunderlick, by attaching the upward extending columns 22,24 (Jaeger) to the existing stock support members g' (Wunderlick), and positioning the brace members 26,28 (Jaeger) so that the apertures 62 (Jaeger) align with a the trigger guard of the gun stored in the rack (Wunderlick), and the locking pin member 64 (Jaeger) extends therethrough. The motivation would have been to provide a locking means to the rack as disclosed by Wunderlick. Wunderlick discloses a novel and convenient rack for storing a firearm, but fails to disclose a means for securing the firearm from unwanted removal, such as by a child. Jaeger discloses a simple means for selectively securing a firearm, or group of firearms to a rack, in order to allow removal by only the possessor of the lock's key. It follows that it would successful and obvious to provide the locking means disclosed by Jaeger to the rack as disclosed by

Wunderlick, to make the rack safer from unwanted removal or theft—a motivation advanced by Jaeger.

In regard to claim 4, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious to construct the apertures disclosed by Jaeger of any shape, including a circle, oval, or triangle, as long as the aperture is capable of receiving the locking pin for locking firearms within the rack. See *In re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966), (holding that the shape of a container was a matter of choice which a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious absent persuasive evidence that the particular configuration of the claimed container was significant). See MPEP 2144.04.

### ***Response to Arguments***

In view of the Amendments filed September 5, 2006, the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 set forth in the Office Action mailed July 19, 2006, are hereby withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed September 5, 2006, with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed July 19, 2006, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In particular, the rejections are based on US Patent No. 321, 920 to Wunderlick in view of US Patent No. 4,113,107 to Jaeger. The Applicant asserts that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case for obviousness in the rejections; however, the Applicant has failed to offer any support for his assertion, and instead argues an allegedly improper combination of Wunderlick with US Patent No. 5,138,786 to Fischer.

In view of the foregoing, the rejections based on Wunderlick in view of Jaeger are upheld. As set forth in the above rejections, the Jaeger reference sets forth motivation for the combination, there is a reasonable expectation for success of providing the rack disclosed by Wunderlick with a locking means, and the combination teaches each limitation claimed in the instant application. Thus the combination of Wunderlick and Jaeger sets forth a proper *prima facie* case for obviousness.

### **Conclusion**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- US Patent No. 5,443,191 to Jorgenson
- US Patent No. 2,752,046 to Levy
- US Patent No. 6,585,209 to Mattingly (see FIG. 7)
- US Patent No. 2,593,402 to Aitchison et al.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

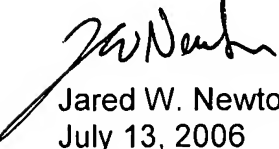
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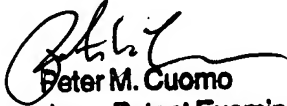
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jared W. Newton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2952. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (571) 272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Jared W. Newton  
July 13, 2006  
JWN

  
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